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COPY NO 39

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
DAILY DIGEST OF SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC

Date: MAR 9 1951

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    - "B" - important regional developments not necessarily related to Soviet/Communist intentions or capabilities
    - "C" - other information indicating trends and potential developments

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SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

**EASTERN EUROPE. ALBANIA. Cabinet Changes.** The Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly announced on 5 March that Deputy Premier Spiro Pano, and Minister of Industry Rita Marko, have been released from their posts in order to carry on more important duties. (R FBID, 7 Mar 51). **COMMENT:** Both men are young Party militants who had wartime experience as political activists in the National Liberation Army. They were given their Cabinet posts in the Government reorganization of 19 July, 1950. As neither have relinquished their alternate member status on the Central Committee, it is possible that they have been selected to intensify political indoctrination in the Government and the Army.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Purge of Czechoslovak Ambassadors May Be Under Way.** US

had been recalled to Praha for "routine consultation" and that he expected to return to Washington in about ten days. [REDACTED] however, that [REDACTED] appeared "ill at ease" during the "desultory" conversation and that he would not accept a dinner invitation without prior consultation with his superiors. Prior to the last session of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party at which a Titoist conspiracy was uncovered involving, among others, former Foreign Minister Clementis, at least three other Ambassadors besides Outrata were recalled to Prague. The others included Bohuslav Kratochvil from New Delhi, Rudolf Bystricky from London, and allegedly Adolf Hoffmeister from Paris. In addition, Alexander Kunosi has reportedly been subject to recall from Buenos Aires for some months, although he is currently heading the Czechoslovak delegation at the UN ECOSOC session in Santiago, Chile. (C SD Praha 556, 8 Mar 51; [REDACTED] U NYT 5 Mar 51; R FBIS, 2 Mar 51). **COMMENT:** The background of each of the recalled diplomats is similar to that (1) each was a Johnny-come-lately to the Communist Party; (2) each, either during or after the war, has spent long periods of time in Western countries; and (3) each has been friendly either with Clementis or with Fierlinger, a Socialist opportunist who jumped on the Communist band-wagon just before the coup in 1948. The spectacular defection of Kratochvil suggests that perhaps some of these diplomats may have been considered by Praha to have been potential defectors and, hence, called back before the incipient purge was made public.

**YUGOSLAVIA. Yugoslav White Paper.** The Yugoslav Foreign Office has issued a 481 page White Paper, accusing the USSR of applying military pressure against Yugoslavia and supplying the Satellite armies with arms and troops with which to overthrow the Yugoslav Government. A Yugoslav official has stated that the document will be forwarded to the UN. (R FBIS, Belgrade, 9 March 51). **COMMENT:** The issuance of the Yugoslav White Paper is another indication that the regime is concerned about an attack this year and is taking precautions to forestall it. The documentation

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and filing of its case with the UN will facilitate UN action in the event of attack. In his recent Reuters' interview Tito stated that the question of Satellite rearmament, in violation of their peace treaties, should be discussed at a Council of Foreign Ministers and indicated that, if the problem was not solved, it might be brought before the UN. By issuing its White Paper at this early date, the Yugoslav Government may hope to put pressure on the Soviet Union to discuss the problem in a CFM. On the other hand, it may indicate that the Tito regime, knowing that a Big 4 solution to the problem is impossible, does not consider it wise to delay filing its case with the UN.

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Belgrade and Athens to Exchange Military Attaches. The Yugoslav and Greek Governments have apparently agreed to the exchange of military attaches. The Greek Government has chosen the former Director of Intelligence of the Greek General Staff as their MA to Belgrade. This latest step in the normalization of relations between the two countries, however, does not appear to presage an initiation of military talks. In a recent conversation between Yugoslav Minister to Greece and a Greek under-secretary of the Foreign Office, the Yugoslav Minister reiterated the view that the community of interests of the two countries was clear, but that there was no necessity to coordinate their military preparations since this could be accomplished in a very short time when the occasion arose. (S Athens 2915, 7 Mar 51). COMMENT: The exchange of military attaches is another step in the gradual amelioration of relations between Greece and Yugoslavia.

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SECTION 2 (EASTERN)

- "C" TURKEY. Premier Menderes' Cabinet Resigns. The Turkish Cabinet resigned on 8 March. Premier Menderes had been in office since the general elections last May, and he indicated that his government was resigning because it had completed the task entrusted to it. (U NYT, 9 Mar 51). COMMENT: The resignation of the Turkish Cabinet is due to internal party politics and will not alter Turkey's position on basic national and international issues. In the last few months it has become increasingly clear that the Cabinet, which was hastily formed after the Democratic Party's unexpected success in the last general elections, was experiencing considerable internal dissension because one faction within it felt that President Celal Bayar was injecting himself unnecessarily into Cabinet affairs. Premier Menderes has become increasingly discontented over this situation and has been anxious to resign. Apparently he promised to remain in office until the passage of the national budget which occurred on 28 February. President Bayar, having now had sufficient time to deliberate over the choice of a new Premier, will probably make an appointment designed to bring about greater harmony between the President and the Cabinet.
- "B" IRAN. Parliamentary Committee Approves Oil Nationalization. The Parliamentary committee studying the ratification of the supplementary oil agreement with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC), voted unanimously for nationalization of the oil industry 8 March, a few hours after the funeral of Premier Razmara who was assassinated Wednesday morning, allegedly because he had opposed the plan. The recommendation now has to be submitted to Parliament and the committee has asked that its term of office be extended two months for further study of its proposal. A demonstration against the AIOC has been called for tomorrow by Seyyid Kashani, one of Iran's most politically active religious leaders and reportedly the leader of the extremist religious sect Fayadan-i-Islam (Crusaders for Islam) to which Razmara's assassin admitted membership. (U NYT, 8 Mar 51). COMMENT: Although most thinking Iranians agree that Iran is not equipped to run a nationalized oil industry, emotions on this subject have been aroused to such a pitch recently by the continuing agitation in favor of nationalization, by Razmara's recent speech in which he appeared to withdraw his support for nationalization, and by his subsequent death that any vote taken by the commission at this time would have been likely to be in favor of nationalization. Although the recommendation must still be submitted to Parliament, the prospects for a vote in favor of nationalization appear at the moment to be high. Because the chief company affected by the move will be the AIOC, which is partially owned by the British Government, vigorous and prolonged British effort to prevent nationalization can be expected. The movement, however, is apparently gaining new adherents in Parliament among the deputies. The religious element headed by Kashani apparently plans to continue its agitation and now that Razmara is gone there is little likelihood of the emergence of a Prime Minister strong enough to oppose the proposal if it is submitted to the vote in the immediate future.

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"B" SYRIA. Anti-US-UK Statement by Syrian Deputy Chief of Staff. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Akram Hawrani, leader of the Arab Socialist Party in Syria, re-proved Deputy Chief of Staff Shishakli last December for telling an American official of the Tapline Co. that the Syrian Army was prepared to defend the Tapline against the Russians and to fight side by side with the Western Allies. Shishakli explained to Hawrani that he had made the statement purely out of courtesy, that at heart he hated the British and Americans who caused the loss of Palestine, and that, like Hawrani, he was only awaiting an opportunity to take revenge on the Anglo-Saxons. Hawrani is said to have rejoiced in this assurance from Col Shishakli. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] statement was probably intended as an appeal to Hawrani's violent xenophobia, calculated to cement their mutual political relations, and it should not be regarded as overly alarming. Shishakli has in the past supported Prime Minister Qudsi's pro-Western foreign policy and has allegedly made pro-Western statements, such as his comment to the American Tapline official. Nevertheless, he is quite capable of expressing the opposite view when it seems politically expedient. Hawrani, more than Shishakli, is capable of ousting Prime Minister Qudsi and replacing his Populist Government with one more amenable to army interests. This last is presumably what Shishakli desires. Both Shishakli and Hawrani prefer to achieve their aim by Parliamentary means. As evidence of their anti-Qudsi strategy, in recent months Hawrani has increased his criticism of the Qudsi Government, has demanded a coalition to replace it, and may be successfully negotiating a rapprochement with former cabinet minister Nizam al-Din with a view to reviving a strong Liberal Republican opposition. That Qudsi has apparently seen the storm warnings is shown by a report, later officially denied, that he planned to eliminate the growing opposition by absorbing it in a coalition government. (OCI Daily, 19 Feb 51). Though these intrigues contain the elements of political upheaval, no prediction can be made regarding the imminence of an overthrow of the government.

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"A" THAILAND. Coup Attempt Possibly in Progress. The Bangkok correspondent of the Singapore Straits Times reports a "revolt against the military regime in Thailand by disgruntled Police, Army and Navy officers." He said that a number of police officers have been detained, that many arrests are being made and that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Rear Admiral Taharn Kamhiran, former commander of the Thai Marine Corps, who is said to be the leader of the plot. Taharn's residence, some 80 miles west of Bangkok, is reported to be "surrounded by armed Marines". Reuters' Singapore Bureau, in filing this Straits Times report to London, stated that no official confirmation of the revolt could be obtained in Singapore but forwarded the comment of an "authoritative source" that the event was probable, because rumors of "the plot" had been circulating "for weeks". (R FBIS wire, 9 Mar 51). COMMENT: Rumors and reports of a variety of coup plots in Thailand have been in circulation for the past three months. Many of these have claimed Chinese Communist and/or Soviet connivance in the coup planning and have claimed that disgruntled officers of the rivalry-ridden Thai armed forces were cooperating with the Communists. A regularly-mentioned figure in these reports has been the deposed Admiral Taharn, who was a leader in the last unsuccessful coup attempt. Recently, such reports have also claimed that the former Thai Premier, Pridi, who is said to be conniving with Taharn, and whose presence in Bangkok was rumored in early March, has thrown in his lot with the alleged Communist plotters. Meanwhile, both Chinese Communist and Viet Minh propaganda, in virtually identical utterances, have been putting out a steady series of attacks on the present Phibun regime, the most recent of which hinted that changes were imminent. (See OCI Daily 8 March). From the fragmentary press report available, it is impossible to judge whether the present action represents the forceful suppression of an incipient coup attempt by Premier Phibun's forces or whether an open bid for power by coup plotters is actually in progress. The question of possible Communist involvement in the affair is similarly obscure at present.

"C" MALAYA. Press Launches Independence Movement. A campaign for Malayan independence patterned after the Indonesian independence movement has been launched by the Singapore Malay press. Extremists in the movement are believed willing to cooperate with Communist factions in Singapore. COMMENT: A committee to support Malayan independence (Panitia) was established in Djakarta in July 1950 by 5 peninsular Malays. Other Malays, members of the banned left-wing Malay Nationalist Party (MNP) who fled to Sumatra to avoid arrest have reportedly joined the movement. A branch of Panitia is thought to be active in Kuala Lumpur and the above report would indicate that its activities may have been extended to Singapore where contact between the former MNP members and Malayan Communists would be possible and where the movement could capitalize on Muslim unrest stemming from the December riots.

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"C" INDOCHINA. Viet Official Praises French. At a dinner in honor of General De Lattre, Tran Van Kha, the new Minister of National Economy, delivered a "fulsome and unrestrained" eulogy of De Lattre, the French Union, and French "presence" in Indochina. His speech met with a mixed reception on the part of many Vietnamese present. (S Weeka No. 9, 6 Mar 51). COMMENT: This speech indicates that the Tran Van Huu clique, which includes the above mentioned Tran Van Kha, intends to rely heavily on French favor to maintain itself in power.

"A" Viet Minh Capabilities. Without being specific, French G-2 states it has "some evidence" that "something could happen" in Tonkin during the last ten days of March. French G-2 also reports that a Russian-Chinese mission arrived in Tonkin on 10 February to ascertain Viet Minh capabilities for a new offensive. Pursuant to a report in the last WEEKA that Viet Minh units had been ordered to conserve ammunition, stockpiles earmarked for the Viet Minh are reportedly being assembled in Kwangsi but are not being delivered to the Viet Minh at present. (S Weeka No. 9, 6 Mar 51). COMMENT: Reports from several sources indicate that the Viet Minh is regrouping for an offensive which will take place, at the earliest, in the latter half of March. Reports that arms are being stock-piled in Kwangsi for the Viet Minh suggest that the major Viet Minh effort in Tonkin will not take place as early as 15 March, the date predicted in an SO report. These reports may also indicate that the Chinese are making arms almost, but not quite, available to the Viet Minh as a means of bargaining with Ho Chi Minh.

"A" AUSTRALIA. High Court Invalidates Act Outlawing Communist Party. Australia's High Court ruled on 9 March that the Communist Party Dissolution Act is invalid. The Government is expected to appeal the decision to the Privy Council in London--the highest appeal court in the Commonwealth. (U AP Sydney, 9 Mar 51). COMMENT: The Dissolution Act forbids employment of Communists in key industries. However, the Government may still rely upon provisions of the Crimes Act which penalizes any individuals or groups who seriously disrupt industry.

"B" CHINA. Chinese Communists Fight Currency Depreciation. The Chinese Communists have forbidden persons entering and leaving China from carrying Jen Min Piao (Chinese Communist currency) under penalty of confiscation. Persons attempting to "deflate" the currency are threatened with prosecution. In the meantime, the value of the Communist currency has been falling in the Hong Kong free market, with 4,500 JMP now being quoted for a Hong Kong dollar, as compared with the official 3,880 rate. (U HK Reut, 8 Mar 51). COMMENT: This development evidences the growing concern of the Chinese Communist authorities for the inflationary pressures arising from their involvement in the Korean conflict. According to one report, the Peiping government increased its note issue by 2.25 trillion JMP (some US\$100 million) in the second half of 1950. January price indices in Peiping were reportedly about 13% above the previous month's levels. Meanwhile, Communist broadcasts have announced that several stores in Tsingtao and Hangchow were closed as a result of improperly raising prices.

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"C" Dispersion of CH'EN Yi's Forces. A Chinese source with contacts in Peiping states that the dispersion of CH'EN Yi's forces (the 3rd Field Army) was designed to reduce his chances of success should he attempt military opposition to Peiping. Source alleged that Peiping cannot afford the risks involved in removing CH'EN from his present position. (C Singapore 57560, F-6, 28 Feb 51). COMMENT: Of the 3rd FA, the bulk of the 8th and 9th Army Groups, plus elements of the 11th AG, are known to be in Korea. The present location of the 7th and 10th AGs is uncertain. Although the frequent reports of CH'EN's disaffection have not been reliably confirmed, the above report is regarded as possibly true.

"C" Endures Food Shortage for Second Consecutive Year. Consular economists in Hong Kong, in an analysis of the current food situation in China, state that 1950 food output for all China, including Manchuria, is about 136 million metric tons, as compared with 128 million metric tons in 1939 and a prewar annual average food supply (output plus imports of about 2 million tons) of 142 million metric tons. During 1950, the food situation in urban sections showed a marked improvement as evidenced by an abundant supply and stable prices. The marketing situation also showed some improvements. Nevertheless, these outward successes were deceptive. Much of the accomplishment was based on a ruthless policy of starving the peasants and feeding the urban population for political motives. Although estimated 1950 output is larger than output in the poor 1949 year, it is doubtful whether the food situation has shown much improvement, since there was a considerably larger carryover in 1949 than existed in 1950. Since the beginning of 1951, Communist vernacular reports are again giving publicity to possible outbreaks of famine in Central, North and East China. While the Chinese peasants are known for their patience, it is doubted whether they will remain silent when they are forced to tighten their belts for a second consecutive year after "liberation." (U Hong Kong D-1046, 30 Jan 51). COMMENT: The significant conclusion of this analysis - that the Chinese Communist regime will face more active peasant resistance this spring as a result of a food shortage endured for the second consecutive year - is consistent with increasing severity of Communist security measures. Because peasant resistance to the regime is localized and not organized, it is not expected to threaten the regime's control in most areas. However, this resistance, if active and widespread, will reduce the regime's military potential by decreasing Communist control over agricultural output and requiring the diversion of troops to maintain internal security.

"A" Settlement of Tibetan Status. According to a press story Communist China and the Government of Tibet are about to begin negotiations for peaceful settlement of their dispute. A Tibetan delegation has been invited to Peiping to conclude a pact conceding Tibet's defense and foreign relations to Chinese control, and guaranteeing continued rule of the Dalai Lama's hierarchy. (U NYT, 9 Mar 51). COMMENT: No confirmation is available for this report, attributed to unidentified source in Kalimpong. It sounds plausible, however. Communist guarantees of internal autonomy, of course, are worthless. By reserving rights for the defense of Tibet the Chinese Communists would be able to control the government and place troops on the frontiers of Nepal and India.

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"C" KOREA. Farmer Refugees Permitted Return to 37th Parallel. A press report states that ROK Home Minister CHOUGH Pyong Ok announced on 7 March that the military situation has improved sufficiently to permit farmer refugees to return to their homes as far north as the 37th Parallel. Permission has been limited to farmers and their families in order that they may start spring sowing. (R FBIS Ticker, 7 Mar 51). COMMENT: While the ROK's food position is presently somewhat better than might have been anticipated in view of war conditions, the ROK Government can not afford to miss any agricultural opportunities. An obvious secondary reason is to alleviate the serious refugee problem in the Pusan-Taegu area.

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SECTION 3 (WESTERN)

"C" GERMANY. Germans Only Mildly Pleased with Western Control Revision. The West Germans feel that the revision of the Occupation Statute, announced by the Western Allies on 6 March, is welcome enough as far as it goes, but that it is already out of date. The revision, based on the New York decisions of September 1950, reduces the rights of the Allied High Commissioners to control affairs of the Federal Republic. In return for the west German assumption of prewar external debts and a promise of material cooperation in Western defense, the Allies have granted Bonn authority to set up its own Foreign Ministry with limited powers and have given up their review of Federal and state legislation, most of their controls over German foreign trade and exchange, and control of the distribution of funds, food, and other necessities. The Allies have also announced that their powers relating to the deconcentration of industry, decartellization, DP's and refugees would be abandoned as soon as the Federal Republic has satisfactory legislation on these subjects. Circles reflecting Government opinion express the view that the revision embodies a step forward, but hope that soon a "large revision" will be made. The opposition Socialists call the present action "small comfort". (U Frankfurt 7243, 7 Mar 51). COMMENT: The West Germans will not be satisfied with anything short of complete abolition of the Occupation Statute.

"B" East Germans Halt Coal Trains. East German authorities have indicated that they may limit shipments of coal from western Germany to west Berlin, in retaliation for recent Allied controls over west Berlin canal traffic. (OCI Daily, 7 Mar 51). They have stopped the first four trains of a total of 45 which were, according to an agreement between east and west Germans, to be permitted to carry coal into Berlin. These 45 trains were intended to move the coal back-log resulting from the closing by the east Germans of the Mittelland Canal locks on 11 January. Although these four trains were eventually allowed to proceed, the status of the remaining 41 is unclear, since no more of the trains in this group have been permitted to enter the Soviet Zone. (S Berlin 1131, 8 Mar 51). COMMENT: Although limitations on coal shipments to west Berlin will not be as harmful to the stockpiling program as they would have been in mid-winter, these east German measures will still handicap west Berlin's industry.

"B" FRANCE. End of Cabinet Crisis in Sight. An early break in the current Cabinet crisis is now possible inasmuch as there is a "considerable trend" among Radical Socialist (Right of Center) deputies in favor of yielding to Popular Republican (MRP) insistence

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on a single-ballot electoral reform, and the politicians are growing "tired of the crisis". The Socialists in fact admit that its prolongation would help the Gaullists. The next Government--whether or not Premier-designate Queuille is invested by the Assembly--will be generally regarded as one of "liquidation", only undertaking essential tasks before elections, which an increasing number of political leaders now desire in mid-June. (C Paris 5236, 8 Mar 51). COMMENT: The deadlock between the Radicals and the MRP on electoral reform has been the fundamental cause of the crisis. Inasmuch as sentiment is growing in France that this Assembly is "worn out" and should be terminated before November--the scheduled date for elections--and the coalition parties are agreed that some anti-Communist electoral reform is essential, an early resolution of the impasse can be expected.

"C" AUSTRIA. Communist Purge Rumors are Depreciated. US High Commissioner Donnelly states that a United Press correspondent received the report of Communist purges from an Austrian police official. Donnelly points out that although there have been rumors of Titoist rifts in the local party, the story appears exaggerated and the source sometimes is not reliable. An investigation of the story is under way. (S Vienna 1942, 7 Mar 51). COMMENT: The story of four Communist members of the Central Committee being purged for Titoist sentiments does sound exaggerated. No other evidence has been received to support this report, and purges in the Austrian Party have, at least up to the present, been almost negligible.

"C" DENMARK. Government to Submit Economic Legislation to Parliament. The Conservative-Moderate Liberal Government, has reversed its former position (OCI Daily, 3 Mar 51) and decided to submit to parliament comprehensive proposals for remedying the critical economic and foreign exchange position. A grass root survey indicated that public opinion would be unfavorable in the coming Landsting (Upper House) election, if no program was proposed. The decision favors the present Government which will claim credit for action taken and blame the opposition for obstructionism, if affirmative action is delayed. (C Copenhagen 744, 7 Mar 51). COMMENT: Public opinion has become increasingly critical towards the political parties for dillatoriness in attacking inflation and the foreign exchange imbalance. While the above decision represents an astute political maneuver, undoubtedly all democratic parties will be impelled to attempt to solve the economic situation, which cannot be permitted to continue much longer.

"C" CANADA. Government to Raise New Brigade for European Service. Canadian Government plans for 1951 overseas troop commitments have now reportedly crystallized in the formation of a new brigade to be sent to Europe under NATO commitments, plus the reinforcement to brigade strength of the battalion now fighting in Korea. The troops

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intended for Korea have almost finished their training at Fort Lewis, Washington, while the brigade for Europe is to be raised by the end of 1951. Some units are already available to form the nucleus for the new brigade, and army officials are confident that present recruiting methods can provide the necessary remainder. (C Ottawa Desp. 1088, 23 Feb 51; Montreal Daily Star 6 Mar 51). COMMENT: The Government has moved slowly in its plans to commit Canadian troops to overseas service because of traditional French Canadian opposition to such moves, and is specifically pledged to obtain Parliamentary approval for the dispatch of troops to Europe. The approval will undoubtedly be forthcoming, but will probably occasion the resumption of Opposition demands for some form of conscription, a proposal the Government is likely to resist unless the international situation becomes much more critical.

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DAILY SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT S/S CABLE TRAFFIC

9 March 1951

SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

"A" USSR. Deputy Foreign Ministers' Conference. The US delegation to the Deputy Foreign Ministers' Conference, while warning that it is too soon to reach any definite conclusion on the ultimate Soviet position, believes that Gromyko's initial propaganda blast may indicate that the USSR is primarily interested in exploiting this preliminary conference for the propagation of their chief lines on German rearmament and the reduction of the armed forces of the Four Powers. In commenting upon the Soviet delegation's introduction of substantive matters, the US delegation advises that the three Western powers have as yet no agreed tripartite position or firm individual position on substantive questions. (S, S/S Paris 5218, 7 Mar 51).

SECTION 2 (EASTERN)

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